

09/966434

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
- a main memory for storing data;
 - one or more I/O devices for receiving data from or sending data to said main memory;
 - a control unit for controlling said I/O devices;
 - at least one an I/O processor (IOP) for controlling I/O operations for sending data between said main memory and said I/O devices;
 - a plurality of ~~disparate~~ channels between said IOP and said control unit, said ~~disparate~~ channels including multiple channel paths for carrying data between said main memory and said I/O devices during said I/O operations, said ~~disparate~~ channels including ~~more than one type of channel~~ at least one enterprise system connection (ESCON) channel, at least one Ficon Bridge (FCV) channel, and at least one Ficon Native channel (FC), each channel keeping a copy of channel busy data (CBD), said IOP keeping a copy of the CBD for each channel, said ESCON channel keeping a busy vector and a one deep queue full vector, said FC channel keeping DMA thresholds, number of exchanges, and queue totals; and
 - a computer program executed by said IOP for ~~selecting~~ assigning a path weight to selected ones of said channel paths as ~~whereby the next channel path to carry data between said main memory and said I/O devices is selected~~, said computer program determining a path weight, said path weight being assigned to a path by building a path weight table, said path weight being adjusted to enable comparison between different types of channels, said path weight being based on said busy vector and said one deep queue full vector for said ESCON channel, said path weight being based on said DMA thresholds, said number of exchanges, and said queue totals for said FC channel;
 - wherein each said channel has an affinity to one of said IOP, ~~said computer program includes an algorithm for assigning a path weight to a channel path candidate dependent upon the type of channel containing the channel path candidate.~~
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)

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